



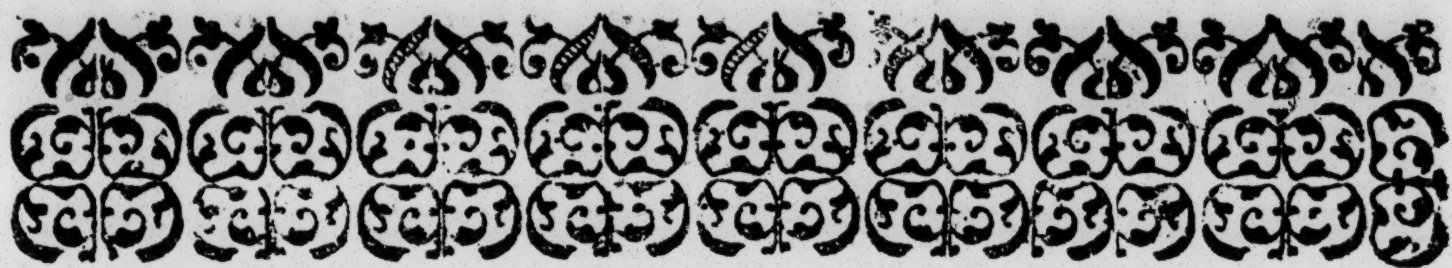
ARTICLES To be enquired of by the Churchwardens and Swornmen within the Diocesse of WORCESTER.

In the Visitation of the Right Reuerend
Father in God, I O H N, Lord Bishop
of *Worcester*,

Holden in the yeare of our Lord God, 1626.



LONDON,
Printed for I O H N GRISMAND, 1626.



The tenour of the Oath to be ministred
*to all and euery the Church-Wardens and Side-
men or Assistants in the said Visitation.*

Y Ou, and euery of you shall sweare by Almighty God, that all favour, feare and affection, and all other sinister corruption whatsoeuer let aside, vpon due consideration of these Articles giuen you in charge, you will make a true, plaine, perfect, and particular answer and presentment in writing to the same Articles, and to euery branch and part thereof, presenting all and euery offenders and offences therein mentioned, so as may stand with the glory of God, the discharge of your consciences, and the Iurisdiction of the Ecclesiasticall Court, wherin you shall deale sincerely, faithfully, and vprightly, as before God: So help you God in Christ Iesus.



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Concerning Church and Church-yard.



Whether is your Church and Chancell in all respects well and sufficiently repayred, and kept sweet and cleane: haue you therein the ten Commandements, the Articles of the Belæse, & other godly sentences fairly witten: the Bible of the largest volume, the bookes of common Prayer, the two volumes of Homilies, the booke entituled God and the King, and all other bookes requisite: a seemly Pulpit, a conuenient seat for the Minister at prayers, a large and comely Surplesse whole and vntorne: These things you must make enquiry of, and present the wants, and especially the want of the Bible of the largest volume, commanded by our late Soueraigne King Iames to be had and vsed in euery Church within the Kingdome.

2 Haue you in your said Church a strong chest for Almes, with a hole in the top, and thre lockes and keyes thereto: Is the mony therein put, imploied to the vse of the poore?

3 Haue you a Register of Christnings, Weddings, and Burialls in a booke of parchment duly kept in a chest with thre lockes and keyes?

4 Hath any man pulled downe or vncouered, or suffered to decay any parsonage or vicarage houses, or any Church, Chancell, Chappell, Westery, or Church-house, in part or in all: or imploied them or any of them to any prophane vses?

5 Whether are the pales, fences, enclosures, and markes of the ancient bounds and limits of your parsonage, vicarage, or ministers house, or of the courts, entries, gardens, backsidcs, or other appurtenances belonging to the same, or any part thereof remoued or altered, or taken away from their ancient places, bounds, and limits thereof: so that in time it may grow out of knowledge, and by some prescription become preiudiciall to the Church, or succceding Incumbent thereof?

6 Are your Bells, Bell-ropes, and Clocke in good repayre, and well ordered: Is your Churchyard well fenced and decently kept: Is it not

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prophaned with fighting, brawling, chiding, gaming, dancing, playing, or with unlawfull cattell, or otherwise : and how, and by whom, and by whose default ?

Ministers and Curates.

7 Doth he reade or say the whole diuine Seruice euery Sunday and Holiday, and administer the holy Sacraments according to the booke of common Prayer: Is your Minister a licensed preacher: doth he diligently preach sound doctrine, and for matters of gouernment seriously teach and maintaine the Kings Supremacie vnder God within his Maiesties dominions, ouer all persons, and in causes as well Ecclesiasticall as Ciuill, and the abolishing of all foraigne power ?

8 Hath your Minister more Benefices then one: if two or more, doth he reside vpon one of them himselte, and maintaine a licenced Preacher on the other: If he haue but one, is he resident and dwelling thereupon: is he painfull in his vocation, of sober and good conuersation, and giuen to hospitalitie ?

9 Doth your Minister vse decencie of apparel, as well in the Church, as elsewhere : and in time of diuine prayers and administration of the Sacraments, doth he vse to weare the Surplesse : and if he be a Graduate, such a hood as is agreeable to his calling ?

10 Is your Minister a peace-maker, and no sower of discord, or is hee suspected, famed, or noted of any notorious crime: or giueth he any ill example : or doth any Minister with you forsake his calling ?

11 Doth any preach in your parish, that refuseth to conforme himself to the lawes, ordinances, and rites of the Church of England ?

12 Hath your Minister a Curate, & how is he licenced, doth he serue two Cures, and doth he bid the fasting dayes, and Holidayes commanded and allowed ?

13 If your Minister be not a Preacher allowed, doth he procure morethly Sermons, and when there is no Sermon, doth he reade an Homily, doth he take vpon him to expound any text of Scripture ?

14 What Preachers haue come from any other place and preached in your parish, haue you their names written in a booke kept for that purpose, hath such a preacher subscribed his name thereto, and set downe the day when he preached, and by whom licenced ?

15 Hath your Minister obtained his Benefice by any Symonicall compact, eyther directly, or indirectly ?

16 Hath any of your parish, or of any other Parish, unreuerently vsed your Minister, laid violent hands on him, or disgraced his office and function by word or deed ?

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Diuine Service.

17 Is diuine seruice in due time on Sundaies, Holydaies, and at o^rther times appointed, reuerently said o^r sung in your Church o^r Chappell, with the Letany on Wednesdaies and Fridaies: and all other rites and ceremonies, according to the prescript forme of common prayer in the Communion Booke?

18 Whether doth any not being licensed (o^r any not ordered at least for a Deacon) say Common prayer openly in your Church, o^r Chappell?

19 Doe any men, young o^r old, vse to weare their Hattes in the Church o^r Chappell in the time of diuine Service, o^r are there any that behaue themselves disorderly in the Church, Chappell, o^r Churchyard, o^r any disturbers of Diuine seruice o^r sermons?

20 Whether doe any victualers (o^r others in your parish) suffer any drinking o^r gaming in their houses on Sundaies o^r Holidaies, especially in time of Diuine seruice o^r sermons?

21 Whether any in your parish vpon the sabbath daies, o^r holidaies doe vse their Trade, o^r doe any other worke o^r labour, as Welwing, Baking, Washing Barbing, o^r such like, o^r doe any Mercers, Drapers, Shomakers, Butchers, o^r others whatsoever open their shops for sale of wares vpon those dayes, o^r doe hedge, ditch, digge, carry, o^r draue burdens by themselves, their seruants, hoeses, o^r other cattle whatsoever on such daies?

The holy Communion.

22 Haue you a decent Communion Table on a frame, with a seemly carpet, and a cloth of Linnen, a communion cup and couer of siluer, a faire Flagon of pewter o^r purer mettle for the Wine, a plate for the Bread, & a Towell to lay ouer it?

23 Whether is there any in your parish, which being full sixteene yeares of age and vppward, hath not receaued the holy communion thre seuerall times in the yere past at least, in his o^r her parish church: whereof Easter to be one of the thre times?

24 Doth your Minister instruct and examine his Parishioners concerning the Sacraments at convenient times, befoze hee administer the Communion. And doth he admit any thereto that cannot say at least the Lords praier, the Articles of the Christian faith, and the ten Commandments?

25 Is your Communion ministred with Bread and wine, consecrated in such order as in the booke of common prayer is appointed? And doth your Minister deliuer both kindes to euery seuerall Communicant, with the blessing prescribed in the booke of common prayer?

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26 Doth any in your parish receiue the holy Communion either sitting, standing, or otherwise then kneeling, as is prescribed in the booke of common prayer: or doe any refuse to receiue the same kneeling, and doth your Minister admit any to receiue the Communion otherwise then kneeling?

27 Doth your Minister admit any notorious offenders, or any Schismatics to the holy Communion, before due penance enioyned by the Ordinary, be duly performed by them, or doth he admit any notoriously known to be out of charitie: or any that hath done any open wrong to his neighbour, before reconciliation made to the party wronged?

28 Whether doth your Minister appoint and obserue so many Communions in one yeare, as that the parishioners may conveniently receiue all of them there three severall times in the yeare: And doth he vse to giue publike notice therof in the Church, the Sabbath day next going before euery such Communions, that the parishioners may prepare themselves to be partakers thereof?

Baptisme.

29 Haue you in your Church a conuenient Font of stone, well kept, and couered, standing in the ancient place: Doth your Minister baptise therein, or in any Basen or other thing, or with any other ceremonies then such as are allowed in the booke of common prayer: or doth he omit, neglect, or not vse all the ceremonies therein prescribed: and doth he vse the signe of the Crosse in Baptisme?

30 Doth your Minister refuse to baptise any children of Christian parents, that are brought to the Church?

31 Are Parents urged to be present at the baptising of their children: or be any admitted to be Godfathers, or Godmothers that haue not received the holy Communion: or doe any parents refuse to haue their children signed with the signe of the Crosse in their Baptisme?

32 Haue any children that were borne in your parish been caried out of the parish to be baptised elsewhere: or haue any not been baptised at all, or in places, or by parties unknowne?

33 Whether hath your Minister refused, deferred, or delayed to come vnto, and to christen any child being in weaknesse, or in danger of death, being thereunto required, by reason whereof such a child hath (through his negligence, or by his default) dyed unbaptised?

Catechisme.

34 Doth your Minister or his Curate duly Catechise according to the late Canon euery Sunday, such children and seruants of both sexes,

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as are of convenient age, or at least so many of them by course, as the time will permit ?

35 Doe parents and householders bring, or send their children and servants to the Church every Sunday duly to be catechised, according as the late Canons require, and who are negligent therein ?

Marrimony.

36 Whether is Marrimony solemnized in your Church or chappell, according to the booke of common Prayer ?

37 Have you in your church a Table of degrees of Mariage, are any married within the degrees of consanguinity or affinity therein forbidden : or doe any children under the age of twenty one yeares, contract themselves, or marry without consent of their Parents or Guardians ?

38 Have any been married without Masses thrice asked in the church thre severall sundaies or Holidais (vnlesse by License of the Ordinary, granted vnder seale) or at any time of the day, then betwixt the houres of eight and twelue in the forenoone, or at any times prohibited, that is to say, from Advent Sunday to the Octaues of the Epiphany, from Septuagesima Sunday to the Octaues of Easter, from Rogation Sunday, to Trinitie Sunday ?

39 Have any that dwell in your parish, been married in any other parish, or any of another parish been married in your parish : or haue any bin married privately out of the Church or face of the congregation, when, where, by whom, and who were present at such mariages ?

40 Have any women not well knowne to be married, bene deliuered of any child in your Parish, and in whose house : or hath any woman in your parish bene carnally knowne, or begotten with child before marriage, and by whom ?

41 Have any forsaken their wiues or husbands, and married others : haue any married againe after they haue been diuorced or doe any which haue been diuorced, keepe company still together ?

42 Doe any married couples liue asunder, and not together, and doe eyther of them keepe in their house, or secretly resort to any other, to the raising of suspition or fame of incontinency ?

43 Hath any in your parish for money or reward, married any woman, that committed fornication or adultery with another man : Or hath any vnmarried woman begotten with child, gone out of your parish before she hath done penance enioyned her by the Ordinary, where was she, or is she receiued or harbored, at whose charge, and who conueyed her away ?

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Visitation of the Sicke.

44 Doth your Minister or curate visit the sicke, doth he admonish them to Repentance, comfort the penitent, and exhort them to charitable and almes deeds?

Buriall of the Dead.

45 Are your Dead buried according to the forme of Buriall set down in the booke of common prayer: or haue any bene buried secretly or in the night, who and by whom, and who were present thereat?

46 Doe the Executors or Administrators, or other friends of them that are buried in church or chancell, repaie againe the pauements, and giue any thing to the Church?

Churching of Women.

47 Doe any Women refuse to giue God thanks openly in the church or (as we terme it) to be churched at convenient times after child-birth, or doth any Minister refuse to church them, or church them any otherwise then is prescribed in the booke of common prayer?

48 Hath any Woman unlawfully begotten with child, been admitted to publike thanksgiving in the church, before she hath performed such penance as was inioyned her by the Ordinary, or at least been churched in a white sheet, and confessed her fault penitently before sufficient witnesses, and undertaken to stand to the censure of the Ordinary for her said offence?

Parish Clarkes.

49 Haue you a parish Clarke chosen by the Minister, is he of honest conuersation, hath he competent skill in reading, writing, and singing: And doth any with hold or detaine his wages or duties from him?

Schoolmasters.

50 Haue you any School house, and how is it repaied: And haue you any Schoolmaster in your parish that teacheth publikely, or priuately: is he lawfully licenced: Doth he come duly to Church, and receiue the holy Communion: doth he instruct his Schollers in the Catechisme allowed, and in the booke entituled God and the King: causeth he them to repaie to diuine prayers in the Church, and to heare and note Sermons: Teacheth he any other Grammar then that which is allowed?

51 Is any Schoolmaster knowne or suspected, publikely or priuately to reade to his Schollers, or suffer them to read any booke that may confirme them in popery, superstition or disobedience to the Kings Maiesty, or to his lawes Ecclesiasticall or ciuill, and how many either men or women doe teach children in your parish, and what be their names?

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Schismatickes and Recusants of all sorts.

52 Do you know any that teach or maintaine any doctrine contrary to the Articles agreed vpon in the Conbocation, Anno Dom. 1562.

53 Doth any preach, minister the Communion, baptise children, or church women in priuate houses, or other where then in the Church, except it be in cases of necessitie?

54 Know you any that absent themselves from the Church negligently or wilfully, how long haue they so done: And of them that are absent without a sufficient & lawfull cause, is the forfeiture of xii d. taken euery Sunday, & converted to the vse of the pooer, according to the statute Eliz. 1.

55 In your parish where there is a preacher, doe any vse to absent themselves from his sermon, and resort to any other?

56 Know you any that forbear to participate with the church of England in Prayer or Sacraments, either denying the Church to be Apostolicall, or condemning the ceremonies thereof as superstitious?

57 Haue you in your parish any popish Recusants, any halfe Papists that come to the church, and receiue not the Communion, any church papists that come and receiue themselves, but either perswade others, or maintaine their wiues, children, familie or friends not to come? All such you must present by their names and surnames, with their additions also whether Esquires, Gentlemen, Yeomen, Husbandmen, Labozers, or of any other trade of liuing.

58 Doth any Seminary priest or Iesuite, resort to any place within this Diocese, or suspect you any such: or doe you know any that resort to any popish Priest or Iesuite?

59 Know you any that by writing, talke or argument, impugne the kings supremacie: or any that haue kept in their custody, that sel, disperse, or deliuer vnto others any unlawfull bookes against the Religion and gouernment established, or in defence of any foraigne power, or domesticall Consistorie?

Excommunicated persons.

60 Are all excommunicated persons kept out of the church from diuine prayers and receiuing of the holy communion, vntill they be lawfully absolved: and are there any in your parish which haue stood excommunicated forty daies and bpwards: are such persons as stand excommunicated once in euery six moneths denounced in your Church in time of diuine seruice vpon some Sunday?

61 Hath any excommunicated person not absolved (at least in his extremities) not giving any testimonie of his repentance befoze his departure,

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ture, been buried in Christian buriall, who buried him, her, or them, where and when, and who were present at such burials?

62 Doe any retaine or keepe in their house or seruice, any person denounced excommunicate, or doe any way incourage them therein, or conuerse with them in buying selling, eating, drinking, or otherwise keepe company with any such excommunicate person in any sort?

Wills, Testaments, and Administrations.

63 Doe any in your parish administer the goods of the dead, or any way intermeddle therewith without lawfull authoritie committed vnto them vnder the Ordinaries seale?

64 Know you any in your parish that suppress the last Will of the dead, or any that forge or alter any Wills, or any Executors that fulfill not the Testators will: or any that detaine Legacies giuen to any charitable vses?

Seuerall Articles.

65 Doe any in your parish prophane the Sabbath dayes. or not duely obserue the Holidais appointed: Are the Ember Fasts orderly obserued at the foure times of the yeare appointed?

66 Are the dayes and orders of Perambulation duly obserued in the Rogation weeke: if not in whose default?

67 Are the Canons, Constitutions, and Orders made and agreed vpon in the Conuocation house, Anno Dom. 1603. read ouer once every yeare in your Church vpon Sundaies or Holy-dayes, according to his Maiesties commandement in that behalfe?

68 Doth your Minister yearly present, and giue vp in writing to the Ordinary, the names of all Recusants, and halfe Recusants, men & women, as well sojourners, as parishioners, and common guests in your parish, aboue the age of thirteen yeares, according to the 114 Canon, or not?

69 Doe any in your parish take vpon them to practise physicke or chirurgery, not being lawfully licenced?

70 Are any in your parish (or which were of your parish, and are now departed) knowne, suspected, famed, or reported to haue offended in fornication, adultery, incest, witchcraft, sorcery, charming, vsury, swearing, drunkennes, common slandering, sowing of discord, brawling, scolding, or any other vncleannes of life or bad manners?

71 Are any Housholders in your parish (in whose house there is any one that can reade) which haue not the booke intituled God & the King, and who be they which want the same?

72 Haue any Apparators, or others, taken reward to compound or

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conceale any offence presentable or punishable in the Ecclesiastical court let this be manifested, and information and presentment made for every offence accordingly?

73 You shall further present whether any in your parish upon Sundays or holidays, do use any dancing, plaies, or other sports or pastimes whatsoever, before all Service on those daies be fully ended: And are the same used by any of another parish, or by any which have not the same day been at divine prayers in their owne parish church, who be they that have offended in any of the premises?

Churchwardens and Sidemen.

74 Are your Churchwardens & Sidemen chosen yearly in the Easter week according to the Canons: And do the Churchwardens yearly, truly make & deliver up in writing their accompt of all their receipts & disbursements whatsoever, by them received & laid out for the parish, & of all the Church goods, Bookes and other things, as the Canons require?

75 Doe your Churchwardens themselves come duely to the Church to divine Prayers & sermons: & do they their best endeours, especiallie upon Sundays and holidays, to cause all Parishioners to doe the like?

76 Whether is there a transcript or copie of the Register booke of the Church, of christnings, weddings & burials, yearlie exhibited & delivered up into the Registrarie of the Ordinarie, or not?

77 Have the late churchwardens concealed any crime, offence or disorder in their times & not presented the same: what be the matters so concealed: or doth any trouble, molest, or vex the Minister, Churchwardens or Sidemen for being presented by them: & who be they that so doe? and have your churchwardens continued in that office above one yeare without a new election?

78 Have you advisedly & diligently perused, read, or heard others read & peruse this booke of Articles, & every particular article & branch thereof: & have you framed your answers & presentments to the same accordingly?

79 Generally, whether doe you know any of the Canons latelie set forth and approved by his Maiestie broken, or any Ecclesiasticall matter worthe to be presented or not: and if you doe, you shall truly present the same by the Oath you have taken as well now as hereafter when it shall come to your knowledge?

80 Whether any Churchwardens, Vestmen or Sidemen of any parish have been called & enforced to present any faults committed in their parishes, otherwise then at the Visitations, or time and times limited in the 116 Canon?

FINIS.

Edm: South

To the minister and churchwardens
of the church in Brampton
Hertfordshire
May 1820

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